

Dedicated to Serving Kentucky's Children



Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Board

2022 Annual Report





CFCRB volunteers advocate for Kentucky's children

*Laurance B. VanMeter
Chief Justice of the Commonwealth*

Kentucky children in out-of-home care have a special group of people advocating on their behalf. That special group of people is the 755 women and men who volunteer with the Citizen Foster Care Review Board program.

Kentucky law requires Citizen Foster Care Review Boards to review every child in the custody of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services due to dependency, neglect, and abuse. Through regular monitoring, the CFCRB volunteers can make informed recommendations to judges on permanency plans that are in the best interests of the children.

In fiscal year 2022, these 755 CFCRB volunteers completed

21,376 reviews of 12,947 children. The review boards have an enormous responsibility and their advocacy for vulnerable children is something all Kentuckians can be proud of.

The Department of Family and Juvenile Services of the Administrative Office of the Courts oversees this important program, and I commend the court staff who provide support to it.

I encourage you to read the 2022 CFCRB Annual Report for an in-depth look at what these dedicated volunteers accomplished last year on behalf of Kentucky's children.

If you would like to learn more about how to become a CFCRB volunteer, visit kycourts.gov and click on Court Programs/Family & Juvenile Services/Citizen Foster Care Review Board.

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Progress Report on Kentucky Children in Foster Care

Fiscal Year 2022: July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022



Cletus Poat
State Chair
Citizen Foster Care Review Board

It is my pleasure to present the FY 2022 Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Board Annual Report to you. The purpose of this report is to provide a detailed look at the children served by the CFCRB program and the activities of the review boards.

In adherence to state and federal mandates, the CFCRB strives to provide timely, accurate, and detailed information to local judges about children in out-of-home care to promote knowledgeable permanency decisions. CFCRB volunteers strive to complete in-depth reviews of children in the custody of the Cabinet. Interested party reviews provide volunteers with the most comprehensive look at the progress being made toward permanency for children in out-of-home care. In 2021, CFCRB started a concerted effort to convert all review boards to interested-party reviews. We currently have 4 counties without an interested party review board. Of these

4 counties, 2 are in the process of transitioning to IPR.

After shifting to a virtual platform for reviews in early 2020, the Citizen Foster Care Review Boards have seen greater participation in the interested party reviews, higher attendance rates at community forums, and an influx of new volunteers being trained. These combined factors led the CFCRB leadership to permanently adopt the virtual review model. We will continue to move forward with ensuring the best possible outcomes for Kentucky's children and families.

Twice a year, the CFCRB hosts regional public community forums to discuss issues involving child welfare. The information gathered at these events is used to identify areas for improvement in the child welfare system. The CFCRB then submits recommended changes to the Kentucky legislature.

To the volunteers we have lost, you may be gone, but you will not be forgotten. Your legacy of dedication and commitment will endure through the children's lives you have impacted. We are forever grateful for your service.

Snapshot of Kentucky's Foster Care System

CFCRB Reviews. In FY 2022, 755 CFCRB volunteers conducted 7,897 paper reviews and 13,479 interested party reviews for a total of 21,376 reviews of 12,947 children. In FY 2021, there were 746 volunteers who conducted 19,140 reviews of 11,278 children.

Length of Stay. The average length of stay for children in care was 26.7 months, a decrease from the 27.8 months reported in FY 2021.

Reunification. Of the children reviewed by the CFCRB, 36 percent were released through reunification to parents or primary caregivers in FY 2022. Another 21 percent were released through placement with relatives. These numbers remain consistent with FY 2021.

Exiting Care. In FY 2022, 12% of youth aged out of care, which was consistent with FY 2021.

Ages of Children Served. Of the children reviewed by the CFCRB, those age 5 and younger remain the largest age group at 33%, with ages 16 to 20 at 22%, and ages 11 to 15 at 23%.

Number of Placements. Children experienced an average of 2.75 placements per commitment. This figure is slightly higher than the federal expectation of no more than 2 placements until a child achieves permanency. However,

Kentucky's children fare better than children nationally who experienced on average 4.48 moves per commitment.

Finalized Adoption. In FY 2022, 27% of children achieved adoption, a slight decrease from the 28% reported in FY 2021. Children with a finalized adoption spent 38.5 months in care, which was a decrease from 38.6 months reported in FY 2021.

Interested Party Reviews. In FY 2022, CFCRB volunteers conducted 13,479 IPRs on 8,376 children.

CFCRB Meetings. 86% of boards use IPR as the standard for reviewing all cases, which is an increase from 78% in FY 2021. The use of interested party reviews has steadily increased from 59% in 2015.

Barriers to Permanency. In FY 2022, the CFCRB reported that the top four barriers to permanency were substance use disorder, chronic mental health issues, domestic violence, and systemic delays.

Local solutions identified to address barriers. In FY 2022, CFCRB boards reported that the top four identified solutions to address barriers as substance use disorder treatment, mental health treatment, housing/support, and trauma-centered treatment.

2023 Recommendations for Legislative & Policy Reform

The Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Board is required by Kentucky Revised Statute 620.320(5) to evaluate and make annual recommendations to the Supreme Court of Kentucky, the governor, and the Legislative Research Commission regarding the laws, practices, policies, and procedures that affect permanence for children in out-of-home placement. The CFCRB State Board approved the following legislative recommendations for 2023:

CFCRB Board Membership

Amend KRS 620.190(2)(e) regarding membership on local boards to allow non-Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) employees of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) to serve on local boards. Suggested language would read as follows: “Employees of the Department for Community Based Services shall be prohibited from serving on the local citizen foster care review board.” The original wording was in place before the merger of the Cabinet for Health Services and the Cabinet for Families and Children, and it prohibits participation by potential volunteers from CHFS departments that are not directly involved with dependency, abuse, and neglect cases.

Statewide Expansion of Family Court

Supports a future judicial redistricting plan that brings Family Court to every county in the commonwealth. The CFCRB has historically regarded the statewide expansion of Family Court as a high priority due to improved outcomes for families and children who have access to the expanded services provided by Family Court.

Equitable & Affordable Broadband Service Delivery

Recommends that the KentuckyWired broadband project provide equity in service delivery so that all Kentucky families and children can afford access to the internet and successfully participate in online services, including child welfare, educational and medical platforms.

Address Disproportionality and Disparity

Supports legislative and policy efforts that require child-serving agencies to gather data and use it to address disproportionality and disparity affecting children and families. This can be done through annual strategic plans and reduction goals. The recommendations are to:

- Review and update criteria identifying youth risk factors that may lead to negative activities such as gang recruitment and involvement.

- Create and promote strength-based, asset-building services and trainings to assist families and youth affected by these behaviors.
- Collect and share data related to these activities.

Community-Based Sentencing Alternatives for Parents

Supports community-based sentencing alternatives that promote rehabilitation and accountability while factoring in whether the person is a primary caregiver so parents can continue to provide for their children. Kentucky has a high rate of children who have experienced parental incarceration. In 2017-2018, twelve percent of all children in the Commonwealth had experienced the incarceration of a parent, exceeding the national average of seven percent. In recent decades, Kentucky has seen staggering growth in its female incarceration rate.

Adverse outcomes for children suffering from parental incarceration may include greater risk of homelessness and higher likelihood the child will drop out of school or receive poor grades. In addition, parental incarceration does not impact youth in Kentucky equally. Youth of color are disproportionately harmed by parental incarceration and experience these adverse outcomes more frequently than their white peers.

FAIR Team Referrals for Youth Ages 12 and Under

Supports court designated workers having the ability to refer children ages 12 and younger to the Family Accountability, Intervention, and Response (FAIR) teams to be connected with services, instead of these youth being sent through the juvenile justice system. For children ages 12 and younger, more than two-thirds of complaints are for status offenses – like missing school or running away – and misdemeanors, which can be more effectively addressed within the community instead of the courts.

When young children have a case handled out of formal court, that can impact how future cases are handled. By referring these children to the FAIR teams, their specific needs can be addressed while ensuring they take responsibility for their actions, with the over-arching goal of keeping these children from entering the juvenile justice system. This is especially important for children in foster care who are already struggling with the trauma they have suffered that brought them into out-of-home care.

CFCRB hosts regional community forums: Tell us what you think

Public weighs in on foster care system at regional forums

The Kentucky General Assembly passed House Bill 1 in 2018 to reform Kentucky's foster care system by removing barriers to children being placed in permanent homes.

HB 1 amended KRS 620.270 to require the Citizen Foster Care Review Board to participate in regional community forums at least twice a year and present the findings to the Supreme Court, governor, and legislature. These forums allow the public to discuss their concerns and identify barriers to the safety, well-being, and timely permanency of children in care.

The following summary of findings from Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 CFCRB Regional Community Forums is based on the public's concerns. Recommendations have been categorized by party, stakeholder group or topic. The FY 2022 forums were conducted virtually, leading to increased participation by community partners.

Note: These comments do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Kentucky Court of Justice elected officials and employees.

FALL 2021 REGIONAL COMMUNITY FORUMS: ISSUES & CONCERNS

Child Welfare Agencies

- There remains an insufficient number of social services workers to support the needs of Kentucky's children and families. This creates a bottleneck that can prevent or nullify improvements in other areas.
- Safety concerns for Court Appointed Special Advocate arise when the DCBS worker is disengaged or overwhelmed with their caseload.
- There needs to be increased awareness, understanding, and compassion regarding the impact that poverty, trauma, and bias has on families. Disproportionality continues to be a systemic issue in school systems, law enforcement, health care, and mental health services. Community agencies must continue to work to address disproportionality in these systems. This could be furthered by emphasizing a focus on clearly defined safety factors. Unconscious bias training would be helpful for DCBS staff and foster parents. Diverse Guardians Ad Litem (GAL), foster parents, and DCBS staff are needed.
- DCBS recruitment and certification personnel should partner with minority communities to recruit more minority foster homes.
- It is essential that DCBS workers and the courts system consider family dynamics before a removal.
- Interactions between the biological family and DCBS should be recorded. Body cameras should be considered.
- Educational barriers and access to tutors continues to be an issue throughout the state.
- There should be better screenings of anonymous reporters.
- A history with DCBS can be prejudicial to biological parents. Consideration should be given to time since prior removal and steps taken by the parent since prior involvement.
- DCBS agencies need more community support.
- Some CASA volunteers are not receiving timely notice to attend case plan meetings.

Services

- The lack of peer support, transportation, education, and mental health services for families in the foster care system continues to be a barrier. This scarcity is particularly seen in rural areas. There must be an increase in access to therapists, trauma-focused programs, family preservation services (pre-removal and post-removal), crisis stabilization beds, and short-term psychiatric beds. In some areas with these services, waiting lists are very long.
- The lack of childcare services, guidance for resources, and proper training for foster parents during a crisis is a barrier.
- Relative placements need financial, childcare, guidance, and mental health support services.
- Access to consistent therapy/drug intervention services is needed for biological parents.
- There are too many bundled services in private childcare agencies. Private Child Care (PCC) foster homes must go through the PCC for services. Private foster care agencies that have an interest in foster parent retention have a conflict of interest when they are also providing therapeutic services for the child.
- The process to ensure continuity of services even through placement changes needs to be streamlined and addressed.
- Foster children with complex medical concerns often require additional support from community programs and healthcare providers. More resources are needed.
- There are extensive waiting lists for Michelle P. and Supports for Community Living (SCL) Waivers.

Children

- Sibling separation continues to be a barrier.
- There needs to be more focus on recruiting appropriate foster parents across the state to decrease the frequency of children being placed in foster homes outside of the

- county in which they resided.
- Bundling services in PCC placements can be a barrier to children's mental health needs being fully met.
- Agencies need to empower children to be able to communicate their needs and wishes.
- Youth in planned permanent living arrangement placements are having difficulty obtaining driver's education courses.
- There is a need for elevating the youth voice in Dependency Neglect and Abuse (DNA) proceedings—both the cabinet and the courts—to ensure youth have a seat at the table when discussing their future/outcomes.
- Continue to reduce the time a child is in out-of-home care.

Parents

- Non-custodial parents are not being contacted in a timely manner when their children are removed.
- Permanency plans are being delayed and extended due to reasons beyond the control of parents (e.g., DCBS staff shortage, service closures, or limitations).
- Due process rights for parents should be a priority.
- Delays in the court process allow children to linger in care and continue to be a barrier.
- Delay in reunification for parents who have completed their case plan.
- There should be a focus on addressing transportation issues for biological parents to get to visitations with their children.
- Visitation schedules for biological families and children take too long to establish; should be completed at the time of removal.
- There is a lack of support and information from DCBS to biological families.
- Increasing rehabilitation aid would improve the chances for parents to bring their children home.
- Parent therapy should be covered through insurance and allow out-of-network therapists.
- Parents should be held more accountable and begin working on case plans sooner.
- Delays to timely family reunification remains an ongoing concern.
- A reevaluation of removal criteria is needed.

Foster Placements

- Children are being placed in foster homes too far away for regular visitation with biological family.
- Medical management is needed for communities to meet the needs of families and children in the foster care system.
- Communities are not understanding how trauma impacts kids and families. This is a barrier to families in the foster care system.
- Additional training is needed for foster parents to understand behaviors associated with a child's level of care, in order to prevent placement disruptions.
- Training for foster parents need to be updated.

- There needs to be a clear plan to address the lack of minority foster homes.
- Incorrect narratives regarding fostering (i.e., that it is a great way to adopt) can present a barrier in trying to keep homes and obtain new ones.
- Foster parents continue to have questions regarding the court process.
- Travel reimbursement is needed for foster parents who transport foster children to visits with the biological family.
- Foster parents need to be notified of court dates and given the information needed to attend. They should then be granted access and the opportunity to be heard.
- There should be a youth development fund that will reimburse care providers for any extracurricular activities foster youth wish to participate in.
- Retention efforts of current foster parents need to be increased.
- Respite care services are available, but more are needed throughout the state.

Relative and Fictive Kin Placements

- More kinship resources are needed.
- Fictive kin placements do not have access to therapeutic services, psychiatric, and other services provided to children in foster homes.
- Relatives are not being informed why they are not approved to be a placement. There are concerns about children being removed from homes and hospitals and not being placed with approved family members over foster care placement.
- Aetna Supporting Kentucky Youth (SKY) plan should be made available to kinship placements.
- Better coordination and communication is needed between states' child welfare agencies involved with the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC).

Court and Attorneys

- There are delays in the Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) process after the goal is changed to adoption.
- The lack of GAL participation continues to be an issue.
- Youth and families have limited contact with GALs. Improvement of the GAL involvement could assist with the needed support for youth.
- More family court judges are needed across the commonwealth.
- Continuing the DNA case due to a parent's unadjudicated criminal case leads to delays for the child's permanency.
- Mentors can be helpful for families and children involved with the child welfare system.
- The court should review cases every 90 days.
- Open courts were suggested. More transparency in dependency cases is needed so vital interested parties are not excluded.
- Increase the burden of proof for removals and do not rely on hearsay or opinions.

SPRING 2022 REGIONAL COMMUNITY FORUMS: ISSUES & CONCERNS

Reunification Services

- Parent/child interaction services, supervised visits at the DCBS office, therapeutic supervised visits with families, and intense in-home parenting classes are several identified services in place for reunification.
- Trauma education for parents after reunification could improve the success rate for the families reunified.
- DCBS is meeting with Family Resource and Youth Services Centers (FRYSC) to pilot an early intervention program for low-risk families and prevent DCBS involvement.
- DCBS is increasing collaboration with community partners, looking at the gaps and additional services that might be needed.
- Kindred Roots through the Bair Foundation provides services for family reunification, family aftercare, fatherhood engagement, and resource coordination.
- Volunteers of America help reunify parents with children by providing therapy, parenting classes, case management, assistance with basic life skills, and work with family court.
- Obligations in case plans and/or court orders are sometimes not flexible enough for parents to fulfill the obligations needed to get their children back. Parents are often required to maintain employment and housing while attending court, assessments, treatment, case meetings, and various classes or programs, most of which occur during the day. This causes major barriers in rural areas, which usually only have one or two providers with limited availability or service offerings.
- Biological parents need more detailed information about what resources there are and the exact services they provide.
- Concerns were expressed about the transition to reunification happening too quickly and possibly extending the period of transitioning home to prevent trauma.
- There is a need for more fatherhood supports.

Family and Youth Supports

- Mobile Crisis, respite services, and the Kentucky Sobriety Treatment and Recovery Team (START) program are examples of services that are available in rural areas.
- The Kentucky Kinship Information, Navigation, and Support Program (KY-KINS) through the University of Kentucky provides peer support services for kin and fictive kin caregivers.
- Kindred Roots, through the Bair Foundation, provides services for family reunification, family aftercare, fatherhood engagement, and resource coordination.

- Kentucky Partnership for Families and Children (KPFC) has staff with lived experience and provides free peer support services such as Self-Management and Recovery Training (SMART Recovery), LGBTQ support for youth, and nurturing parenting classes.
- The Kentucky Strengthening Ties and Empowering Parents (KSTEP) program provides intensive in-home services for families effected by substance use disorders.
- The Kids Rising Up through Support and Healing (KRUSH) mentor program is available statewide.
- Orphan Care Alliance also provides support services.
- Kentucky Youth Advocates has developed a birth parents council to provide lived experience perspective.
- There is a need to revisit Independent Living rules and regulations to ensure children are being served appropriately. There are concerns about foster children entering Independent Living and not being allowed to have roommates or even overnight guests, which is typical for youths of that age.
- Additional resources are needed to assist youths with finding their biological families after they turn 18.
- Foster/adoptive parents need more detailed information about what resources are available and who to contact regarding their concerns.
- Kinship placements have reported not receiving the same services as traditional foster placements.

Open Discussion

- Covid-19 has limited in-person services, which has made it more difficult for families without internet access or phone service, especially in rural areas.
- Staffing issues have been a barrier after Covid-19, with DCBS being greatly affected. Even contracting agencies have been impacted due to staffing concerns. There are also families on waiting lists for some services.
- There is a need for foster homes willing to work with children who are trafficking victims or victims of sexual abuse.
- There is a focus on ensuring Guardian Ad Litem contact with their clients (the children) and involvement in outside-of-court case reviews. DCBS explained the importance of all interested parties attending court and discussing the case with the Guardian Ad Litem.
- Racial trauma training is being made available in parts of the state and needs to continue.

CFCRB volunteers met with legislators on Children's Advocacy Week

Several CFCRB volunteers met virtually with legislators during the Children's Advocacy Week held Jan. 18th – 21st, 2022. The event continued an annual tradition that began in 2004 to allow advocates across the state to join forces on behalf of the safety, health, education, and economic well-being of children and families. The

CFCRB was one of the Blueprint Partners of this event. The Blueprint for Kentucky's Children is a coalition of non-profit, public, and private organizations that stands on three pillars: thriving communities launch strong families, strong families launch successful kids, and successful kids launch a prosperous future for Kentucky.



CFCRB volunteers attending January 23, 2020, Children's Advocacy Day. This was an in-person event. Children's Advocacy Week in 2021 and 2022 were exclusively virtual. From Left to right: Steven Farr, Linnea Caldon, Cletus Poat, Tami Blevins, Tom Stevenson.

CFCRB Overview by the Numbers

Out-of-Home Care Demographics

What gender are children in out-of-home care?

The gender of children in out-of-home care is almost evenly split, with 52% male and 48% female.

What are the ages of children in foster care?

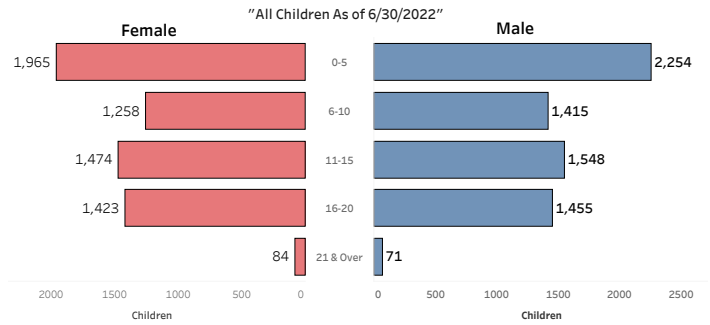
In FY 2022, the youngest child reviewed by CFCRB volunteers was one month old and the oldest was 22 years old (due to extended commitment). The average age remained constant at 10 years. Of the children reviewed by the CFCRB, those age 5 and younger remain the largest age group at 33%, with ages 16 to 20 at 22% and ages 11 to 15 at 23%. The age analysis is based on children who were in out-of-home care on June 30, 2022, and includes children who were released from the custody of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services anytime during the fiscal year.

What race are children in foster care?

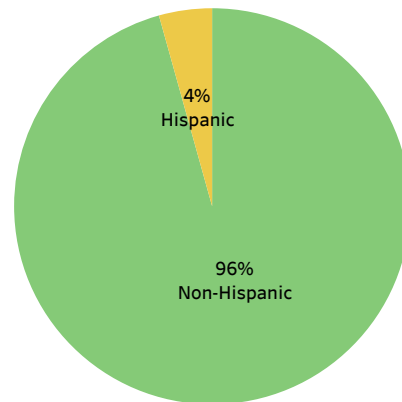
Of the children in foster care, 73% are Caucasian, 10% are African American, 4% are unable to be determined, less than 1% are other, and 13% are Multiracial. The other races include American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander. In addition, 4% of the children in foster care have Hispanic ethnicity.

Black youth represent only 8.6% of Kentucky's population but 10% of children in foster care, demonstrating the overrepresentation of children of color in foster care. Our goal is to address disproportionality in the child welfare

Children in Foster Care by Age and Gender



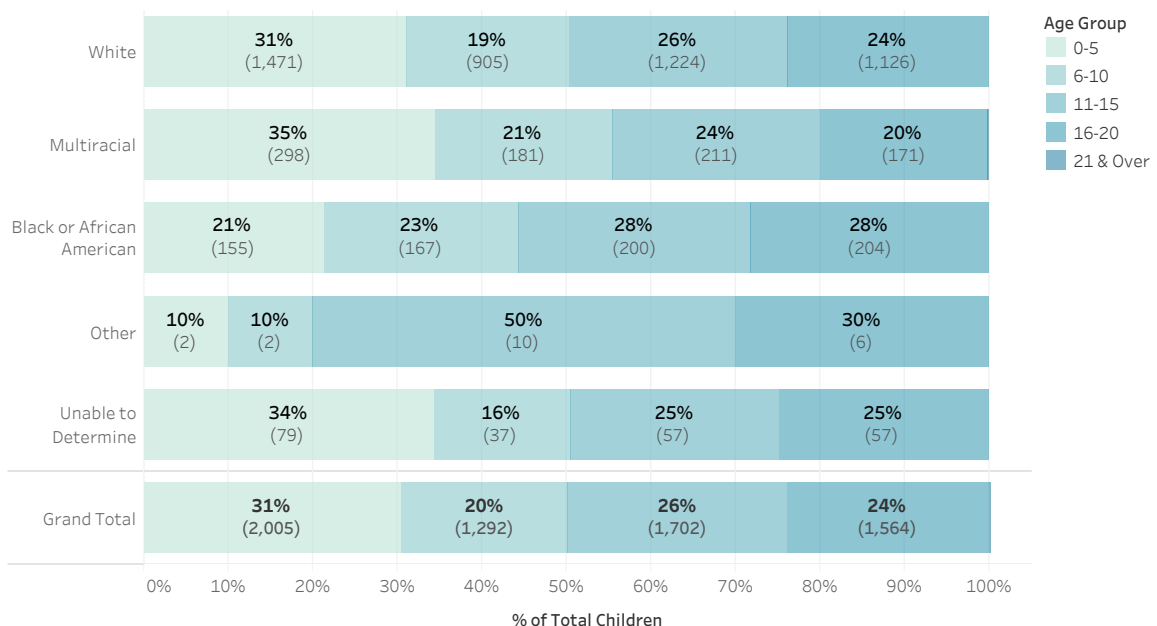
Children in Foster Care by Ethnicity



system by focusing on changes in policy and practice at specific contact points.

Note: In March 2018, the CATS system updated its race codes to allow the selection of multiple race types. However, this only affects children who have entered care from March 2018 to the present.

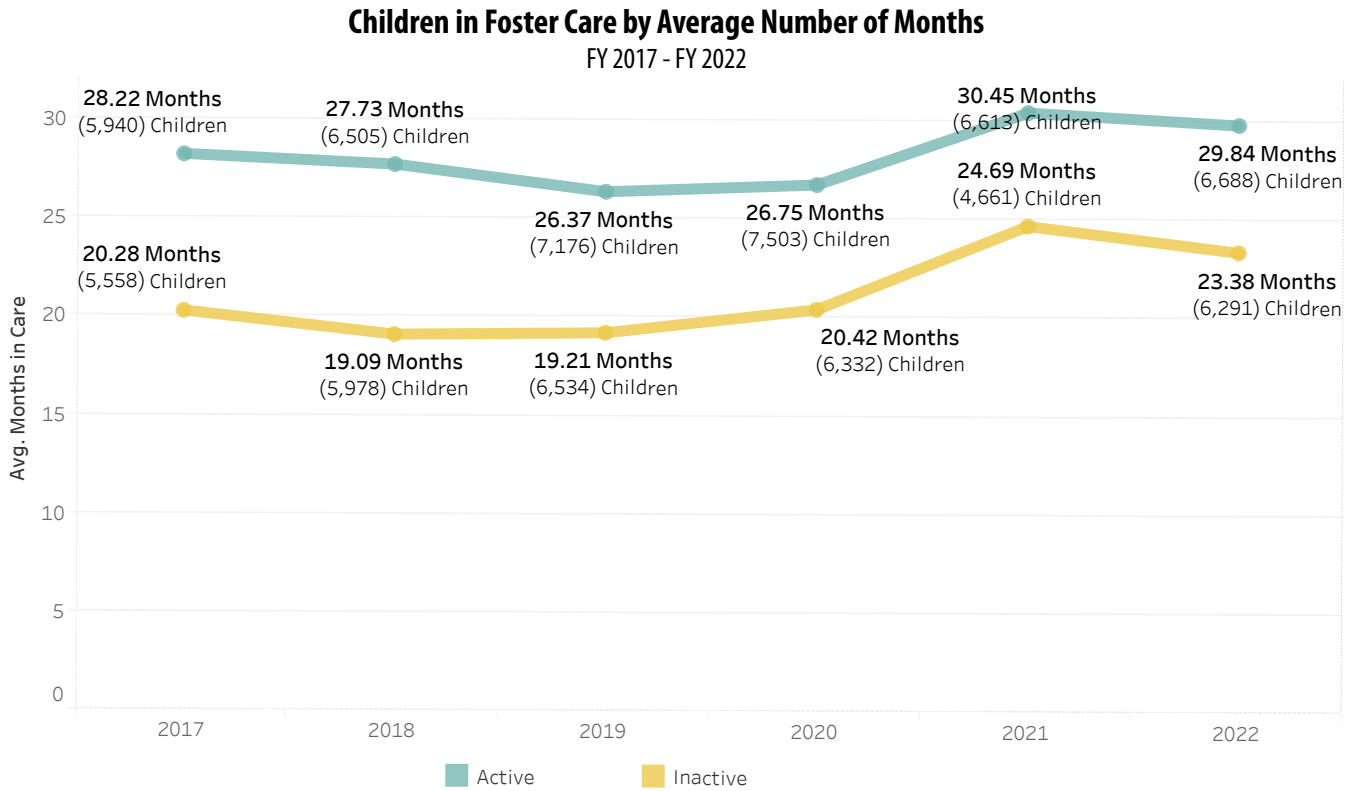
Active Children in Foster Care as of June 30, 2022 by Race and Age



Time in Out-of-Home Care

What is the average length of stay by age group for children in out-of-home care?

Active children – children who were still in care at the end of FY 2022 – experienced an average length of stay of 29.8 months. Inactive children – children released at any time during the fiscal year – experienced an average length of stay of 23.4 months. The overall average length of stay for FY 2022 was 26.7 months, which is a decrease from the average length of stay of 27.8 months in FY 2021.

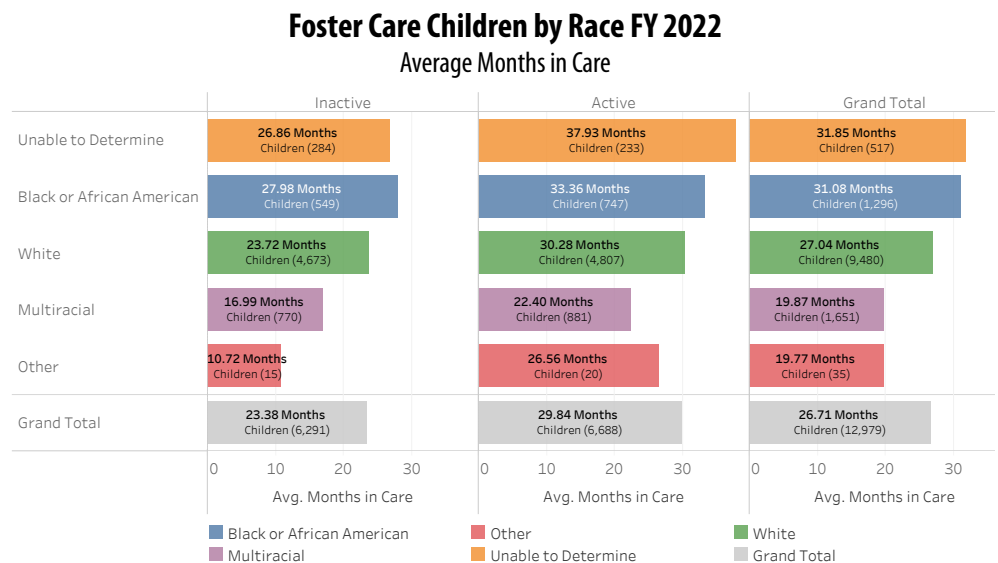


* Statistics captured in this chart represent all children whose cases were reviewed between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2022.
 * The term "active children" describes those children who were still in care at the end of each FY (June 30).
 * The term "inactive children" describes those whose cases were reviewed during fiscal year but were released from care prior to end of FY (June 30).

On average Black children spend 31 months in care, which is 15% longer than the 27 months White children experience. Children over age 16 continue to remain in care longer than younger children and are experiencing an average of 38.5 months in care compared with 18.6 months in care for children age 5 and younger.

It should be noted that in calculating the average length of stay, children who were in care less than 24 hours are counted as “zero” for the length of time in care. These are children who may have been in the process of being removed from the home when a suitable relative assumed custody of the child. When taking into account these zeros, it may actually skew the average to the lower end of the spectrum.

Note: Statistics captured in this chart represent all children whose cases were reviewed between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022.



Exiting Out-of-Home Care

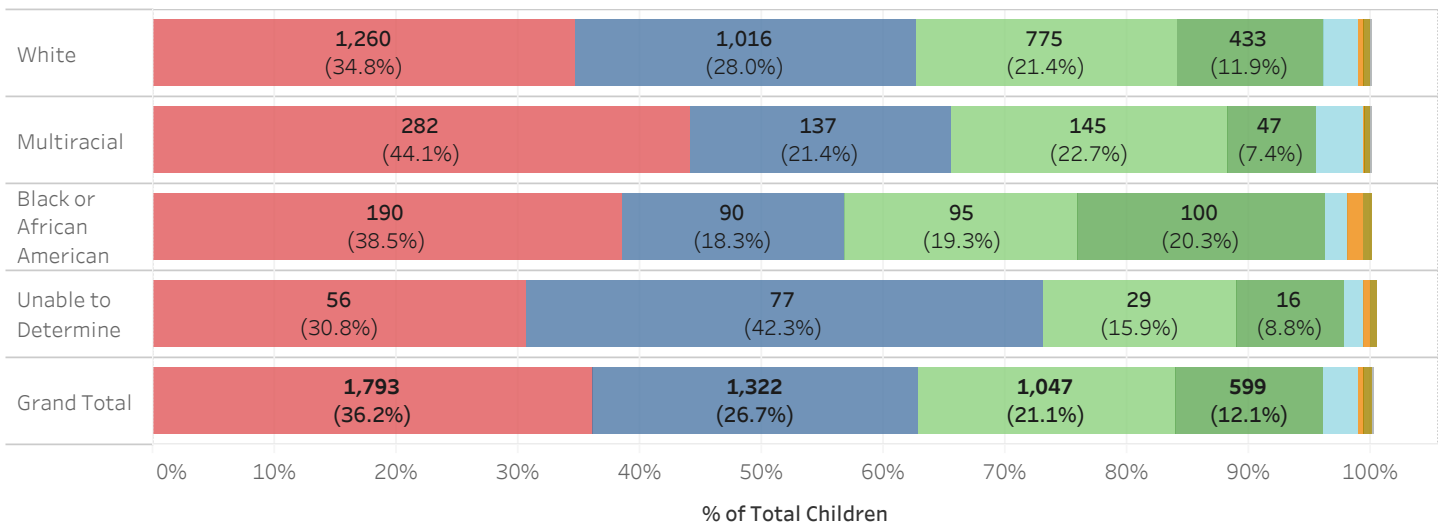
Why are children released from out-of-home care?

In FY 2022, 4,952 children were released from out-of-home care. Of the children released, 36 percent were reunified with parents or primary guardians and 24 percent were placed with relatives or fictive kin, a slight increase from FY 2021. Overall, children aging out of care account for 12 percent of releases. However, 20 percent of black children aged out of care. This is significant as these children aged out of care without obtaining permanency.

The chart shows the race of youth leaving care in FY 2022 broken down by release type.



Children in Foster Care By Race & Release Type
FY 2022



*Other Race not included (see table below)

- Reunification - Parent / Primary Caretaker
- Aged Out
- Adoption
- Fictive Kin
- Successor Guardian
- Death
- Placed with relatives
- Transfer to Another Agency

	Reunification - Parent / Primary Caretaker	Adoption	Placed with relatives	Aged Out	Fictive Kin	Successor Guardian	Transfer to Another Agency	Death	Grand Total
White	1,260	1,016	775	433	103	22	18	3	3,625
Multiracial	282	137	145	47	24	3	1	1	639
Black or African American	190	90	95	100	9	4	6		493
Unable to Determine	56	77	29	16	3	1	1		182
Other	5	2	3	3					13
Grand Total	1,793	1,322	1,047	599	139	30	26	4	4,952

Permanency Through Adoption

What percentage of children in out-of-home care were adopted?

Of the children released from care in FY 2022, 27% achieved permanency through adoption, a slight decrease from the 28% in FY 2021. Nationwide, children released from care by

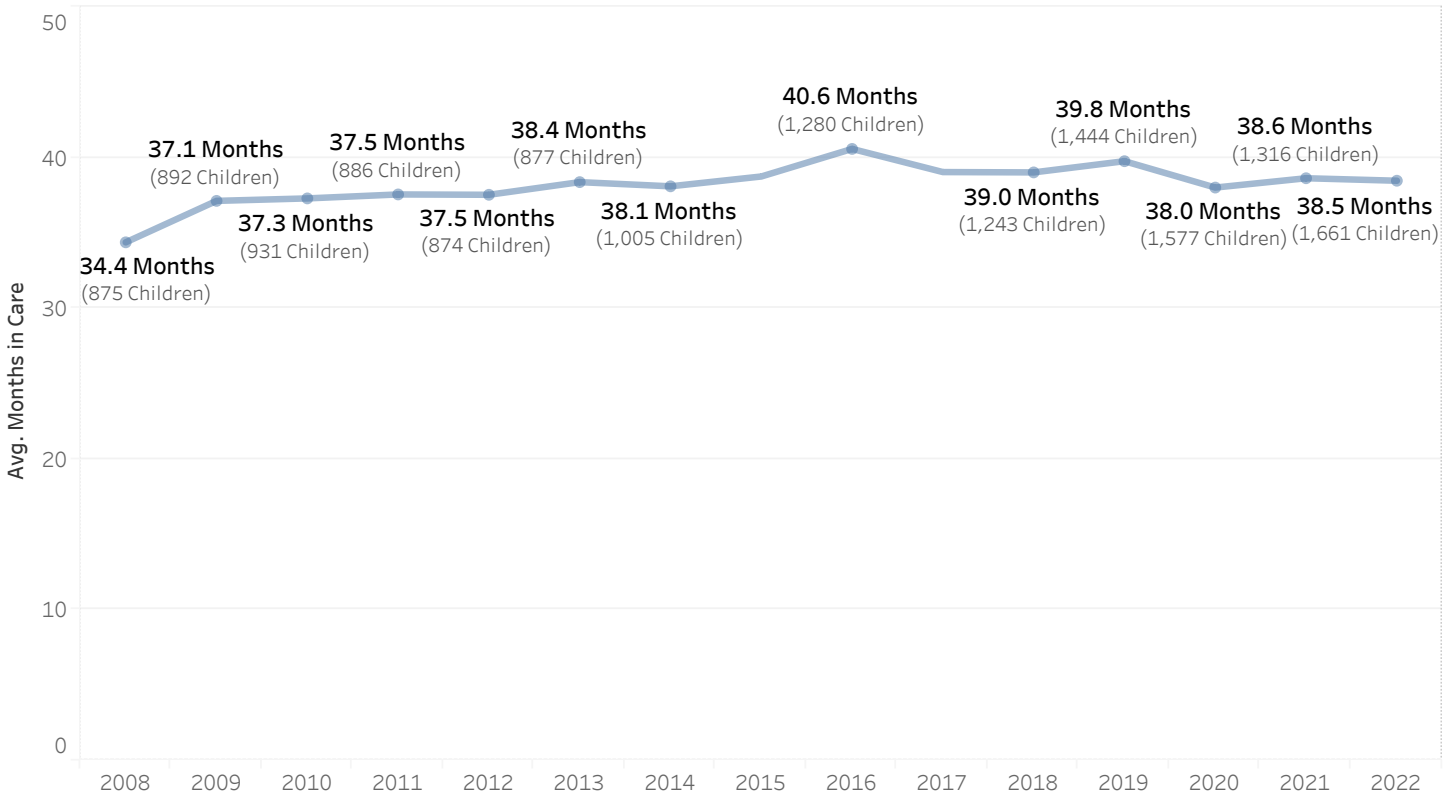
adoption have steadily increased over the last decade.

Data reflected children who exited care because of a finalized adoption spent 38.5 months in care prior to adoption.

The chart illustrates the average number of months to finalized adoption for children in foster care from FY 2008 to 2022.

Average Number of Months to Final Adoption

FY 2008 - FY 2022



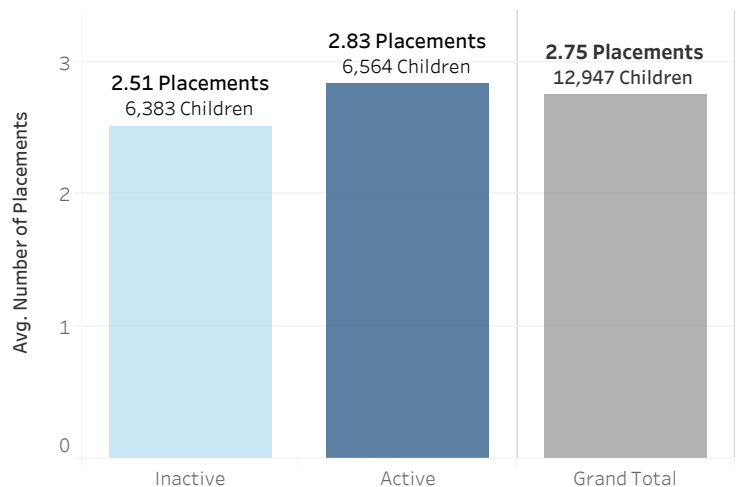
Placement Stability

What do fewer out-of-home placements mean for children in foster care?

Fewer placements create stability and lessen the trauma for children in care. Kentucky's children experienced an average of 2.75 placements per commitment during FY 2022 compared to the national average of 4.48. In FY 2022 a total of 153 children experienced more than three moves in a 6-month time frame. This is more than the 87 children who experienced more than 3 moves in 6-months in FY 2021.

Due to a CATS/TWIST interface malfunction, the April 2022 data was unable to be included in the reporting process.

Average Placements FY 2022



Elevating the Voice of Lived Experience



Eltuan Dawson: CFCRB Executive Committee, Youth Representative & Independent Consultant

I had to be loved, hated, hurt, and healed and that's just coming from different points in my life. I was born in Lexington, Kentucky.

From there, my family moved to Charlotte until age six and then we came back up to Richmond, Kentucky to be with my mom's close family. Shortly after, we were removed from her care. My mom did need some help, but she was taking care of us. We were placed originally with family in a kinship placement, with one of my aunts. We actually were not treated the best at my aunt's house. I don't know the entire truth to the situation. I was removed from my aunt's house after running away. I was angry because I could not be with

my mom. That's true for a lot of young folks who experience foster care. They don't know what that beginning is, what took them away from their home, their family.

When I was 16, I learned that my siblings and I may have been removed from our mother's care due to an accidental circuit fire in our living room wall. There were no injuries.

The total amount of placements that I've been in is 16. That's foster homes, residential facilities, and psychiatric programs throughout my childhood life; it was a lot of moving around. The longest stay that I had in one place was about nine months. People telling me, "Hey, you're gonna have to pack your things up like today and go." And other times it's like, "Ok, now your discharge is set in two, three days." It's a lot, not only are you switching schools, friends, you're also leaving the home you were in. That life that you created in that two weeks to maybe six to nine months, in my case, completely disappears. And then it's time to start over. I was so great at math. I still am great at math, it turns out. So, I missed a year of geometry. While at the other school we weren't even at shapes, angles, or tangents so I was coming in and I was like, "I don't know what I'm doing." It was very hard to pass that class. I felt like I was put behind. But those moves became easier, after about four of them. It became easy for me to adapt, and I would say that is more of a strength now. I think a lot of me has changed over time because of certain supports I've come across in my life, who were able to sit down and have a conversation with me where I felt heard, understood, and okay with who I am. They made it easier and became catalysts for me to change, and to be a better me. The support and guidance I've been able to receive from True Up Kentucky and True Up's Director Nikki Thornton, has been amazing.

I want to inspire and empower, because another gift that came out of some of my experiences, is the opportunity to share and change other people's lives. That has led me to consulting with community organizations which work to improve the lives of youth with similar experiences.

Let's keep in mind that first we need to work with the family and provide supports to keep the family intact. If that does not work, and the children are placed in out-of-home care, let's create opportunities for the child/youth to speak freely. Let's listen to the youth in care and elevate their voice.

We need to do the work. We must continue to shine light in areas of disparity and disproportionality, then we can help folks who need the help, and create systems and policies that are equitable.

CFCRB Mission

To ensure safe, permanent, timely placement of Kentucky's children in out-of-home care.



CFCRB Vision

With respect to children in care:

To ensure adequate and necessary services are provided to families and children with the utmost importance given to safety, well-being and permanency.

With respect to the judges we serve:

To provide timely, accurate and sufficiently detailed information about children in care so as to promote knowledgeable permanency decisions.

With respect to the CFCRB volunteers:

To promote awareness and understanding regarding children's issues through educational opportunities at local, regional and state levels.

With respect to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services:

To provide meaningful, respectful feedback regarding paths to permanency.

Profile of CFCRB Volunteers

Who are the CFCRB Volunteers?

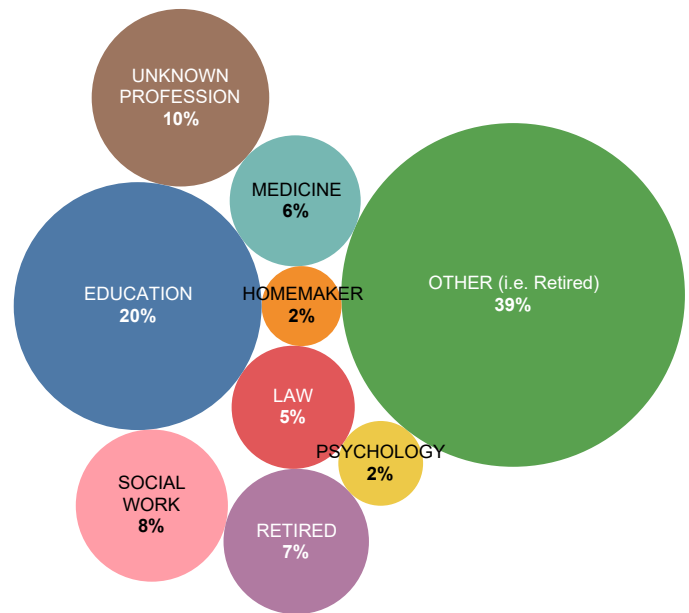
CFCRB volunteers come from a variety of educational and professional backgrounds, but all share a genuine concern for children and their welfare.

Of the 755 volunteers, 86% are female, and 41% have backgrounds in education, medicine, law, social work, and psychology. They range in age from 22 to 91, with an average age of 56. The average length of service is six years, which demonstrates their commitment to the children they serve.

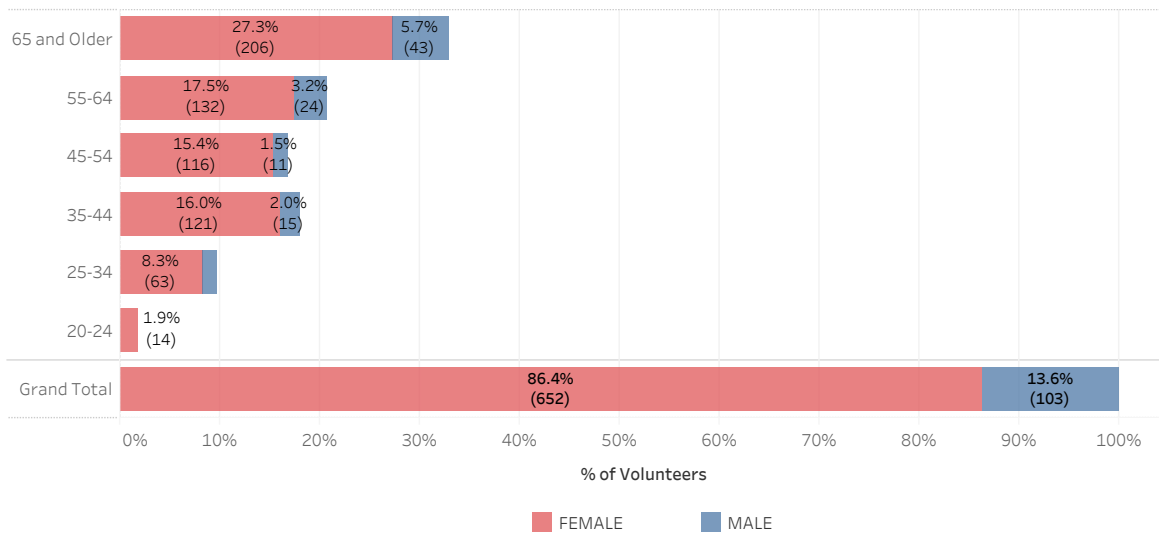
Of the volunteers, 91% are Caucasian, 7% are African American, and 2% are considered other.

The CFCRB strives to increase the diversity of our volunteer base through the efforts of our Diversity Committee and active recruitment in underrepresented populations.

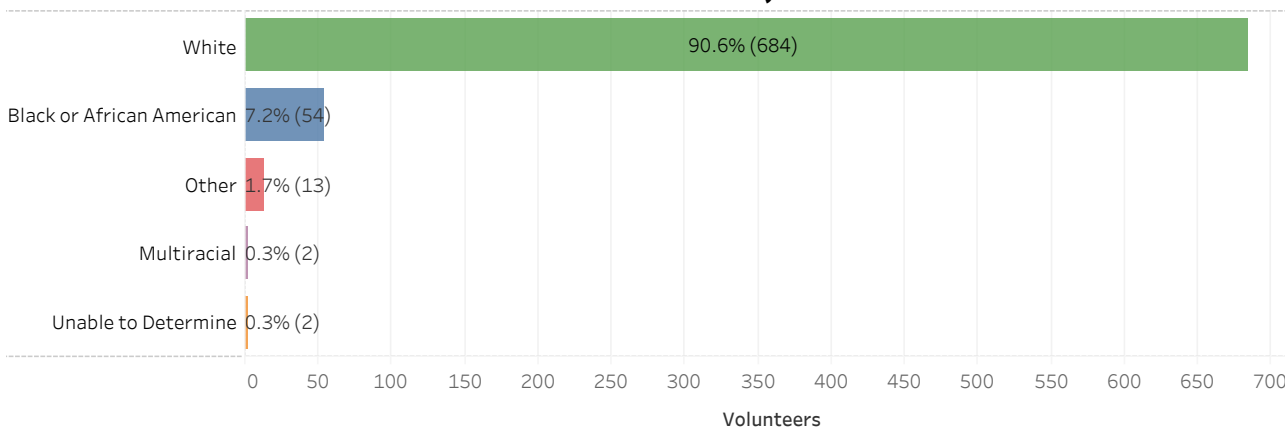
Volunteers by Profession



Volunteers by Age Group & Gender



Volunteers by Race



More children benefit from an interested party review

The Interested Party Review (IPR) is an interactive review process that involves Citizen Foster Care Review Board volunteers, parents, care providers, service providers, Department for Community Based Services personnel, Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteers, and attorneys for children and parents.

IPRs focus on case plans for the parents and their child, and the progress being made to secure permanency for the child. After completing the mandatory review, the Family Services program coordinator compiles a comprehensive report of findings and recommendations and submits it to the judge responsible for the case.

In FY 2022, CFCRB volunteers conducted 13,479 intensive reviews for 8,376 children. In FY 2021, the CFCRB conducted 11,410 IPRs.

The use of IPR as the standard for reviewing cases has grown exponentially since its implementation in 2007. In its first year, only 16% of the CFCRB boards used IPR, compared with 86% in FY 2022. That means that 148 boards representing 116 counties now use IPR.



Working together, CFCRB volunteers do much good

*Christopher Brown, Executive Officer
Family and Juvenile Services
Administrative Office of the Courts*

Having recently joined the Administrative Office of the Courts as the Executive Officer for the Department of Family and Juvenile Services, I was humbled and inspired to learn of the work of the Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Board. Despite the uncertainties that have become part of daily life, the CFCRB remains stable, focused on the safety and well-being of Kentucky's children in out-of-home care, and keeping the best interest of these children as its priority.

I am impressed by the resiliency and innovation exhibited by the CFCRB in ensuring its mandate to children in care was met - even in the darkest days of the pandemic - and continues to be met. The vision to be inclusive not only of the parties involved in a child's life, but also in working toward inclusion and diversity in the ranks of the CFCRB, underscores the integrity of the program and its leadership.

I appreciate the hard work and dedication shown by our volunteers and staff. I am grateful for the CFCRB members working to ensure the voices of Kentucky's children do not go unheard. Their commitment and advocacy for Kentucky's most vulnerable citizens is truly admirable.

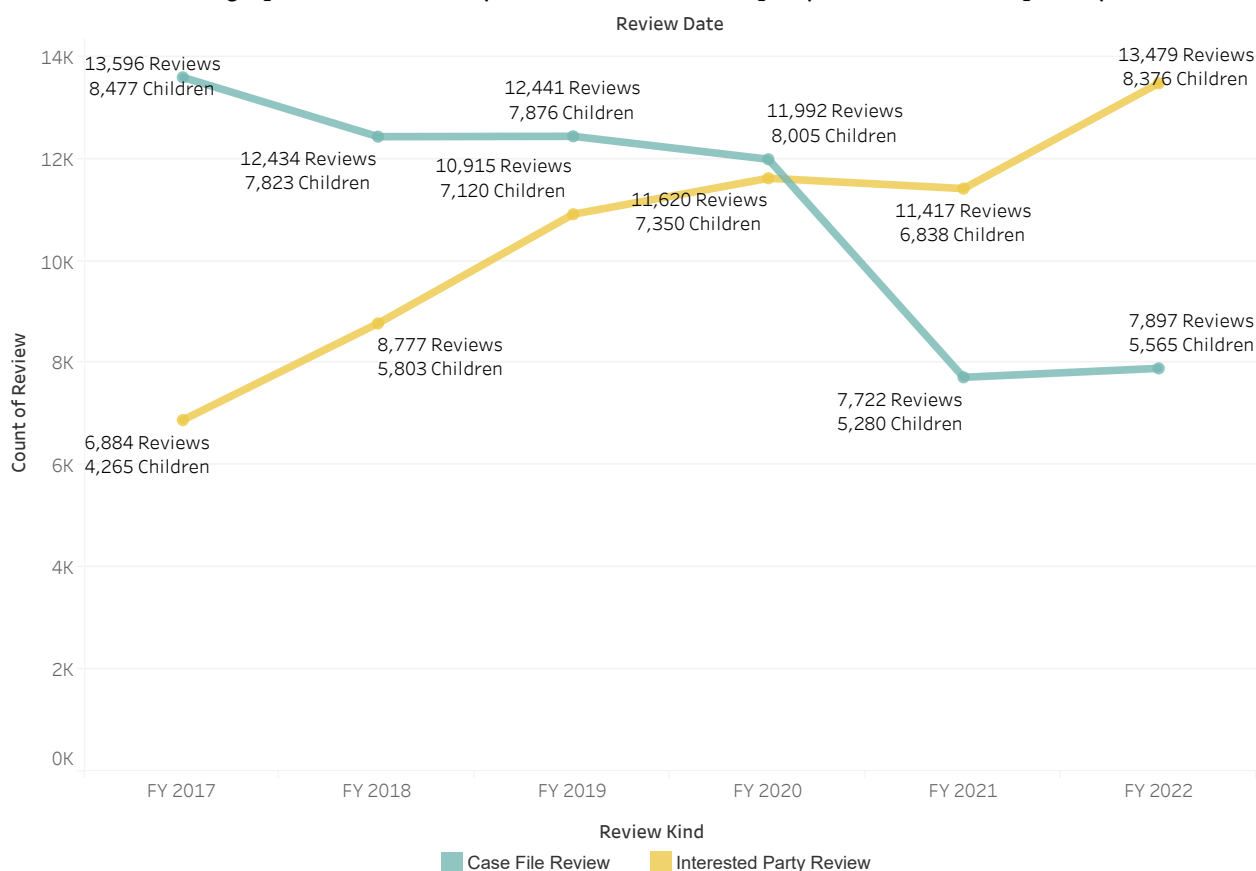
"Do small things with great love, and together we can do something wonderful."

— Mother Teresa



CFCRB Reviews FY 2018 - FY 2022

This graph shows the steady increase in interested party reviews over the past 5 years.



CFCRB Reviews FY 2022

Is Active?	Case File Review		Interested Party Review		Grand Total	
	Reviews	Children	Reviews	Children	Reviews	Children
Active	3,462	2,093	8,449	4,889	11,911	6,564
Inactive	4,435	3,472	5,030	3,487	9,465	6,383
Grand Total	7,897	5,565	13,479	8,376	21,376	12,947

CFCRB Reviews by County/Local Board FY 2022

Review Board Name	Case File Review		Interested Party Review		Grand Total	
	Reviews	Children	Reviews	Children	Reviews	Children
ADAIR	30	30	31	19	61	43
ALLEN			186	106	186	106
ANDERSON	71	36			71	36
BALLARD/CARLISLE			86	56	86	56
BARREN	396	288	5	5	401	291
BARREN IPR	64	64	111	87	175	137
BATH/MENIFEE IPR	155	102	1	1	156	103
BELL IPR	51	32			51	32
BOONE/GALLATIN	278	165			278	165
BOONE/GALLATIN IPR			7	7	7	7
BOURBON	51	36	6	6	57	41
BOYD	130	128	1	1	131	128
BOYD IPR	48	47	97	94	145	141

CFCRB Reviews by County/Local Board FY 2022

Review Board Name	Case File Review		Interested Party Review		Grand Total	
	Reviews	Children	Reviews	Children	Reviews	Children
BOYLE IPR	2	2	146	89	148	90
BREATHITT	11	11	85	44	96	54
BRECKINRIDGE			114	68	114	68
BULLITT	11	11	127	84	138	85
BULLITT B	5	5	127	77	132	81
BUTLER			202	120	202	120
CALDWELL/LYON			69	41	69	41
CALLOWAY			149	96	149	96
CAMPBELL 1	160	105	1	1	161	105
CAMPBELL 2	183	121			183	121
CAMPBELL 4 IPR	13	13	125	68	138	75
CARROLL	141	87			141	87
CARTER IPR	30	30	126	79	156	99
CASEY	16	16	17	10	33	26
CHRISTIAN			198	122	198	122
CHRISTIAN B IPR			192	126	192	126
CLARK	160	107	9	9	169	107
CLARK IPR	8	8	192	112	200	118
CLAY IPR	30	30	131	78	161	96
CLINTON	3	3	4	3	7	6
CLINTON IPR	19	18	19	13	38	25
CRITTENDEN			54	39	54	39
DAVIESS A			85	54	85	54
DAVIESS B			171	115	171	115
DAVIESS C			173	115	173	115
EDMONSON			65	46	65	46
ELLIOTT/MORGAN IPR	26	25	89	53	115	71
ESTILL IPR	5	4	101	55	106	58
FAYETTE 1 IPR	8	8	143	87	151	89
FAYETTE 2 IPR	18	18	78	68	96	75
FAYETTE 4 IPR	9	9	65	44	74	49
FAYETTE A IPR	114	76			114	76
FAYETTE B	12	12			12	12
FAYETTE C	9	9	45	34	54	42
FAYETTE D	22	22	51	35	73	50
FAYETTE E IPR	10	10	68	63	78	69
FAYETTE F IPR	7	7	61	43	68	45
FAYETTE G IPR	9	9	71	45	80	48
FAYETTE H	123	85			123	85
FAYETTE I IPR	28	28	83	52	111	68
FAYETTE I PAPER BOARD	18	11			18	11
FAYETTE J	92	70			92	70
FAYETTE J IPR			6	6	6	6
FAYETTE L	45	33			45	33
FLEMING/ROBERTSON	85	68	37	36	122	76
FLOYD IPR	14	14	251	158	265	161
FRANKLIN	292	168	2	2	294	168
FRANKLIN IPR	17	17	39	31	56	44
FULTON/HICKMAN			56	34	56	34
GARRARD IPR	13	13	47	30	60	41
GRANT	127	79			127	79
GRAVES			120	77	120	77
GRAVES B			31	21	31	21
GRAYSON			220	133	220	133

CFCRB Reviews by County/Local Board FY 2022

Review Board Name	Case File Review		Interested Party Review		Grand Total	
	Reviews	Children	Reviews	Children	Reviews	Children
GREEN	4	4	8	5	12	9
GREENUP/LEWIS IPR	111	111	121	77	232	170
HANCOCK	1	1	49	30	50	31
HARDIN A	4	4	212	146	216	150
HARDIN B			227	151	227	151
HARDIN C			236	153	236	153
HARDIN D			168	142	168	142
HARLAN IPR			79	46	79	46
HARRISON IPR	3	3			3	3
HARRISON/NICHOLAS I..	82	82	136	93	218	143
HART	54	53	66	42	120	84
HENDERSON			155	92	155	92
HENRY IPR	15	13	46	29	61	38
HOPKINS			141	86	141	86
JACKSON IPR	36	36	74	57	110	66
JEFFERSON 1	247	148	1	1	248	149
JEFFERSON 1/3 IPR	1	1			1	1
JEFFERSON 2	249	146	1	1	250	147
JEFFERSON 3	189	113	1	1	190	113
JEFFERSON 4	203	119			203	119
JEFFERSON 5	8	8	116	67	124	71
JEFFERSON 5A	1	1	102	63	103	64
JEFFERSON 6	203	121	1	1	204	121
JEFFERSON 7	11	11	94	68	105	70
JEFFERSON 7A	2	1	82	48	84	49
JEFFERSON 8	1	1	77	50	78	50
JEFFERSON 8A	11	11	91	58	102	62
JEFFERSON 9	216	125	1	1	217	126
JEFFERSON 10	189	113			189	113
JEFFERSON 10 IPR	4	4	55	41	59	42
JESSAMINE IPR	9	8	162	102	171	104
JOHNSON	1	1	1	1	2	2
JOHNSON IPR	26	26	106	58	132	74
KENTON 1 IPR	13	13	74	47	87	55
KENTON 2	129	81			129	81
KENTON 2 IPR	9	9	11	11	20	20
KENTON 3-Campbell	106	60			106	60
KENTON 4 IPR	12	12	47	29	59	37
KENTON 5 IPR	13	13	78	45	91	53
KENTON 6	364	212			364	212
KENTON 7 IPR	1	1	4	4	5	5
KENTON 7-Campbell	151	89	5	5	156	89
KENTON 8 IPR	4	4	69	41	73	43
KENTON STATUS IPR	3	3	23	17	26	17
KNOTT/PERRY IPR	1	1	69	45	70	46
KNOX IPR	19	19	136	70	155	84
LARUE			32	22	32	22
LAUREL IPR	78	76	361	195	439	255
LAWRENCE IPR	11	11	80	47	91	53
LEE/OWSLEY IPR	4	4	46	27	50	31
LESLIE	2	2	35	28	37	30
LETCHER	1	1	42	22	43	23
LINCOLN IPR	19	18	106	62	125	71
LIVINGSTON			37	22	37	22
LOGAN			115	69	115	69

CFCRB Reviews by County/Local Board FY 2022

Review Board Name	Case File Review		Interested Party Review		Grand Total	
	Reviews	Children	Reviews	Children	Reviews	Children
MADISON A IPR	8	8	207	128	215	131
MADISON B	160	100	5	5	165	102
MADISON C	150	92	5	5	155	92
MAGOFFIN IPR	12	11	58	33	70	40
MARION/WASHINGTON..	12	12	42	23	54	32
MARSHALL			73	44	73	44
Marshall B			88	56	88	56
MARTIN IPR	7	7	54	28	61	33
MASON/BRACKEN IPR	214	153	2	2	216	154
MCCRACKEN A IPR			110	78	110	78
MCCRACKEN B			116	61	116	61
MCCREARY	27	27	167	77	194	97
MCLEAN			45	28	45	28
MEADE			220	133	220	133
MERCER IPR	5	5	89	54	94	55
METCALFE	18	18	44	25	62	41
MONROE/CUMBERLAND	28	28	65	44	93	60
MONTGOMERY IPR	95	93	195	114	290	190
MUHLENBERG	13	13	124	93	137	96
NELSON			93	54	93	54
OHIO	15	14	245	166	260	168
OLDHAM IPR	15	15	49	28	64	37
OWEN	11	11	23	15	34	24
PENDLETON IPR	44	44	58	40	102	76
PERRY	5	5	96	63	101	64
PIKE IPR A	68	66	307	226	375	253
PIKE IPR B			15	15	15	15
POWELL IPR	25	25	113	65	138	84
PULASKI IPR	74	74	138	86	212	141
PULASKI IPR B	5	5			5	5
ROCKCASTLE IPR	23	23	63	37	86	54
ROWAN A IPR	72	71	78	49	150	117
ROWAN B IPR	48	48	52	38	100	79
RUSSELL	50	49	104	67	154	91
SCOTT	176	111	1	1	177	111
SCOTT IPR	24	23	22	22	46	27
SHELBY	189	108			189	108
SHELBY IPR	34	29	16	15	50	39
SIMPSON			64	34	64	34
SPENCER IPR	10	10	29	16	39	22
TAYLOR	11	11	50	32	61	38
TODD			71	40	71	40
TRIGG	3	3	37	25	40	25
TRIMBLE IPR	17	17	47	24	64	39
UNION			109	66	109	66
WARREN A IPR			137	87	137	87
WARREN B			174	105	174	105
WARREN C	47	46	2	2	49	48
WARREN C IPR			119	68	119	68
WARREN D IPR	11	11	130	79	141	79
WARREN E IPR	1	1	139	82	140	82
WARREN G IPR	11	11	102	82	113	82
WAYNE	36	34	48	34	84	53
WEBSTER			28	19	28	19
WHITLEY IPR	51	46	202	115	253	144
WOLFE	5	5	47	26	52	30
WOODFORD	77	46	7	7	84	50
Grand Total	1,907	1,521	4,724	2,929	6,631	4,080

Celebrating Positive Outcomes for Children

It truly takes a village to help a child grow and thrive. This section highlights success stories, however big or small, of children and families who have experienced positive impacts despite their involvement in the child welfare system. We appreciate the CFCRB volunteers and staff, judges, and Cabinet for Health and Family Services staff for creating the village that makes this good news possible.



Carter County IPR

Carter County reviews a juvenile who came into care at age nine with their sibling. The juvenile struggled with behaviors for years moving from placement to placement before stabilizing six years later. The juvenile is now 19 years old and in the Independent Living Program with a goal of Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (PPLA). After finally being placed into a home that was best suited for him, he became stable and progressed by leaps and bounds. The juvenile finally gained access to and is still receiving mental/behavioral health services. He is now a full-time student at a technical college and is working full-time as a cheerleading/gymnastics instructor. After 10 years in care, he is doing well and succeeding.

Fayette I County IPR Board

A young adult who had extended their commitment to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services was discharged from their Independent Living Program due to legal troubles. It was determined that this individual had untreated mental health issues that contributed to their legal charges. After they were involved in Mental Health Court, they gained a huge support system that included multiple therapists, case managers, and Mental Health Court staff. The young adult was also accepted back into the Independent Living Program.

Floyd County IPR

The Floyd County Board reviewed a young lady who had been in and out of care most of her life. While in out-of-home care she gave birth to a child and decided to recommit to the cabinet with placement in an independent living apartment. Today she is attending nursing school, works full-time, and cares for her child while maintaining a good relationship with her foster family.

Pulaski County IPR

The Pulaski County Interested Party Review Board reviewed siblings whose mother struggled with substance abuse, poverty, homelessness, and other issues, and it appeared that the relationship she had with her children was doomed to fail. Fast forward to now. The children's goals have been changed to adoption; the mother was able to get the treatment she needed successfully and even remarried this year. The children are now able to visit with their mother regularly, she is very involved in their lives, and she is willing to allow the foster family to adopt both children. The foster family has created an amazing relationship with the mother to allow her to be part of the children's lives. The foster mother claims that the children's mother is like a daughter to her now. Due to the foster family's willingness to go above and beyond, not only for the children but for the biological family, everyone involved feels valued, heard, and part of a unit. The cabinet is working diligently to ensure adoption is completed for the children while still supporting the mother in her sobriety and lease on a new life.

Kenton County

The Kenton 2 case file review board struggled to review all children assigned to their board. Chair Linnea Caldon was starting to feel overwhelmed and reached out to State Chair Cletus Poat about her situation. Mr. Poat suggested the possibility of transitioning to interested party review. Chair Linnea Caldon did just that and worked with staff to transition Kenton 2 to an all IPR board, which had its first IPR in May 2022. Now, the board has a full board of active CFCRB members, and as the Board Chair says, this is the best thing that has happened to her board. Her board's program coordinator ensures all the correct parties are in attendance to participate.

ADVOCATES

The Citizen Foster Care Review Board owes its success to the 755 volunteers who advocate for Kentucky's children. We pay tribute to several of these longtime child welfare champions.



MYRA BRADEN, Webster County IPR Board, 20 Years of Service

I applied to become a member of the Webster County Foster Care Review Board after hearing a presentation about it at a state meeting of Extension Homemakers, an organization affiliated with the University of Kentucky. I became a member when we were still doing paper reviews. I have continued to serve because I think it is important to have additional concerned individuals listening and providing compassion and support to children in foster care, their biological families, and the foster families. It is a two-way street, as I have learned much that I think makes me a better person, review board, and community member.



BEVERLY DRYE, Campbell County 2 & 4 IPR Board, 34 Years of Service

After having concerns regarding Foster Care, I applied to be on a Foster Care Review Board in 1988. With my background in child psychology, I have always been involved with children and felt this was a way to help and really see what the process was. I was surprised at the time to see that judges rotated doing family court. Cases were not seen consistently by the same judges. I was so pleased when Kentucky started with Family Court Judges. I have seen many other changes that have really helped with child placements and keeping children from getting lost in the system. The start of Interested Party Reviews was very exciting for me. It gave me a chance to meet families, workers, and others involved in the case. After a couple of years, the process was dismantled but now it has been revived. I am still on a paper review board but find it very limiting. Hopefully, someday all will be interested party review boards. Last year I trained to become a CASA volunteer. This gives me additional insight into the whole system. I have benefited from the many trainings and conferences that the program has afforded me. It has really helped me to understand the complex problems associated with helping children when parents are abusive, neglectful, suffering from substance use, homelessness, and mental health issues. Being a mom of five children and now nine grandchildren, I more than ever feel the community needs to do its part to help all children. Flaws in our society affect us all.



PAT GRAY, Jefferson County 5A IPR Board, 22 Years of Service

My first job after college was as a social worker in Virginia. After moving to Kentucky, I worked writing state plan material and instructions for social workers until I became a stay-at-home mom. When I retired from my job at the Louisville Science Center, I knew I wanted to volunteer in a social work-related job. I learned about the foster care review boards from a friend who had been actively involved for several years and in 2002 I joined the board. When I first started all reviews were completed by reviewing the case files. Since being on one of the first interested party review boards, I have always advocated for IPR's. In the last few years, I have seen many adverse effects of such a large turnover of case workers. One of the highlights of my tenure has been when our board went to court to advocate for two siblings whose adoption was in danger of being postponed due to another sibling being in a long-term treatment facility. The adoption was granted for the two siblings and the third sibling was adopted by the same family at a later date. Personally, I have made several good friends on the board and have become much more aware of the needs of foster children and their foster and natural parents. I am an advocate for children in foster care!



KATE ZOLMAN, Montgomery County IPR Board, 25 Years of Service

I was asked to join the Montgomery County board in 1997. By that time, I had started volunteering at my daughter's elementary school where the realization hit that not all children have a stable home life. The CFCRB allows me to help children feel love and safety by making sure that all interested parties: parents, grandparents, social workers, judges, and foster parents are putting the children's needs first. I strive to seek the answer to the most important question we face: "what is in the best interest of the child."



NANCY PIPER, Ballard/Carlisle County IPR Board, 23 Years of Service

I joined the CFCRB after I retired from teaching. There were two of my retired teacher friends who asked me to join since one board member was leaving. I love children and I felt that being a volunteer was a good way to help them. I have continued serving on the CFCRB for the same reason.

A HEART FOR CHILDREN

Giving a voice to our youngest citizens takes compassion and concern for the welfare of others. CFCRB volunteers explain their devotion to this cause.

Denise Marshall, Fayette F IPR Board



I decided to become a volunteer for the Fayette County CFCRB because I felt it would be a great opportunity to actively participate in the community and the futures of the children who have been placed in the state's care. I have enjoyed being a member of the board, and love to hear about all the good work that is being done by the family members, case workers, foster parents, therapists, CASA volunteers and especially the kids themselves. I'm proud to play a small part in ensuring the kids are being cared for appropriately, along with living in a safe and supportive environment.

Ralph Gruppo, Vice-Chair Kenton 4 IPR Board



Prior to retirement, I was a pediatric hematologist/oncologist at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital for over 40 years. After retirement, I knew I wanted to continue helping children on a volunteer basis. Seeing a notice in the newspaper about the need for volunteers to serve on the Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Board I applied and have now been serving on the Kenton County IPR Board for over three years. I can't think of a better way to help children who are in out-of-home care due to dependency, abuse, or neglect through no fault of their own. I continue to be impressed with the dedication and professionalism of the staff and volunteers involved in the review board process. I also remain impressed by the wide range of services available in Northern Kentucky to support the children, their biological, and foster families through this critical transition period. While every child's outcome is not always what we could have hoped for, being a small part of the many success stories can in some ways, be as rewarding as curing a child of cancer. I would definitely recommend the Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Board to anyone interested in helping vulnerable children.

Lucille Hayes Miller, Graves IPR and Graves B IPR



I joined the program at the invitation of Mrs. Maxine Easley who was a former teacher of mine. After going through the training, I thought this might be a way to offer help and support to children who were being abused, neglected, and often made to feel as though they just don't matter. The program is a way for volunteers to listen to the facts regarding the care of foster children as given by the cabinet, CASA, and other agencies. We, as volunteers, have an opportunity to advise the court as to our recommendations for care as well as plans for their future care. It is good for the children to have voices that hopefully make a difference.

Greg Schuler, Fayette 2 IPR and Fayette D



As a college student, I spent my summers working at the Diocesan Catholic Children's Home in Northern, KY, run by the Sisters of Notre Dame. I was responsible for the daily activities of the children. It was there that I first encountered the effects that negligence and abuse have on the lives of children, and how much energy and effort it takes to help children overcome these effects. Now, as I approach 70 years of age, I have the time to again help children, maybe not in the ways that I could do before (sometimes they ran me ragged!), but through volunteering to serve on a Citizen Foster Care Review Board. I find advocating for foster children and their permanency to be a fulfilling way to be a good citizen. An added benefit is working with other dedicated adults, both those who work directly for the Cabinet, as well as the volunteers with whom I serve. I am grateful for this opportunity to work for the good of others.

Yolanda Johnson, McCracken A IPR



After I learned about the CFCRB, I immediately applied to be a volunteer. I have always wanted to be an advocate for those who can't advocate for themselves, and children fall into that category. Volunteers on the review boards should be as diverse as the families they serve; diverse in perspectives, ideas, and lived experiences. My goal, always, is to listen to all parties and provide a fair, unbiased, and objective decision. A decision that causes the least harm but provides optimal results, is how I develop that opinion. I have really enjoyed my time as a volunteer and hope that my feedback in the meetings has ultimately helped all parties involved in the foster care program.

In Memoriam

Sadly, several Citizen Foster Care Review Board members passed away during fiscal year 2022. We honor and pay tribute to their memory and their dedication to the children they tirelessly advocated for throughout their service to the CFCRB. The voice they provided for the commonwealth's children in out-of-home care lives on through the CFCRB's continued commitment to children in foster care.

Fern Midstokke	Breckinridge, Clinton, & Hart County IPR	5 years of service
David Voss	Boyle County IPR	18 years of service
Grayson Holbrook	Letcher County IPR	9 years of service
Christie Jouett	Montgomery County IPR	4 years of service
Tom Stevenson	Union County IPR and Past State Chair	30 years of service

Training programs help volunteers stay current

Through training programs offered by the Administrative Office of the Courts, volunteers received 3,014 hours of initial training and continued education. Training continued to be held virtually through Zoom and Microsoft Teams. These trainings include:

- CFCRB regional trainings
- Initial trainings
- Chair/Vice Chair trainings
- Technical trainings for Secure Documents, Forms, Conducting IPRs, Microsoft Teams, Zoom
- Legal trainings for dependency, neglect and abuse cases
- Virtual trainings focused on children's issues and approved by local chairs

The CFCRB program conducted our 2022 Virtual Regional 2-Part Trainings in April and May, providing volunteers with six hours of required annual continuing education designed to enhance their effectiveness as child advocates.

The first series conducted in April 2022, focused on Child Abuse Prevention Month, "Safety and Awareness for Every BODY", Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) timeframes, and Volunteer Appreciation. Speakers included Sara Early Jenkins from Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky and Nathan Goins, Family Court Liaison, at the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Christian Hartman led an interactive demonstration on mindful meditation during the second series of regional trainings. In recognition of National Foster Care Month, the May regional trainings also featured a foster parent panel to provide volunteers an opportunity to learn from lived experiences of foster parents.

Additionally, throughout the Spring of 2022, the Department of Family and Juvenile Services partnered with Project SCOPE (Supporting Children of the Opioid Epidemic) to provide CFCRB members more opportunities to obtain their required six-hours of continued education. Project SCOPE provided a series of trainings that were open for CFCRB volunteers to attend. Training topics included family-provider partnerships, secondary trauma care and intergenerational trauma, provider strategies for resilience, understanding of recovery for persons with addiction, and court processes for families.

The second virtual CFCRB State Board and advanced Chair-Vice Chair training occurred on November 6, 2021, with chairs and vice-chairs attending via Zoom. Aetna Better Health Supporting Kentucky Youth (SKY) program presented on the services provided and interested party review (IPR) participation. Presenters included Acting DCBS Assistant Director, CHFS, Tiffany Mullis, and Kelly Pullen, Executive Director KY SKY.

CFCRB Executive Committee

The CFCRB Executive Committee oversees the operation of the State Citizen Foster Care Review Board established in KRS 620.310 (1) and (2). The State Board consists of all local review board chairs and provides for a state CFCRB chair and vice chair.

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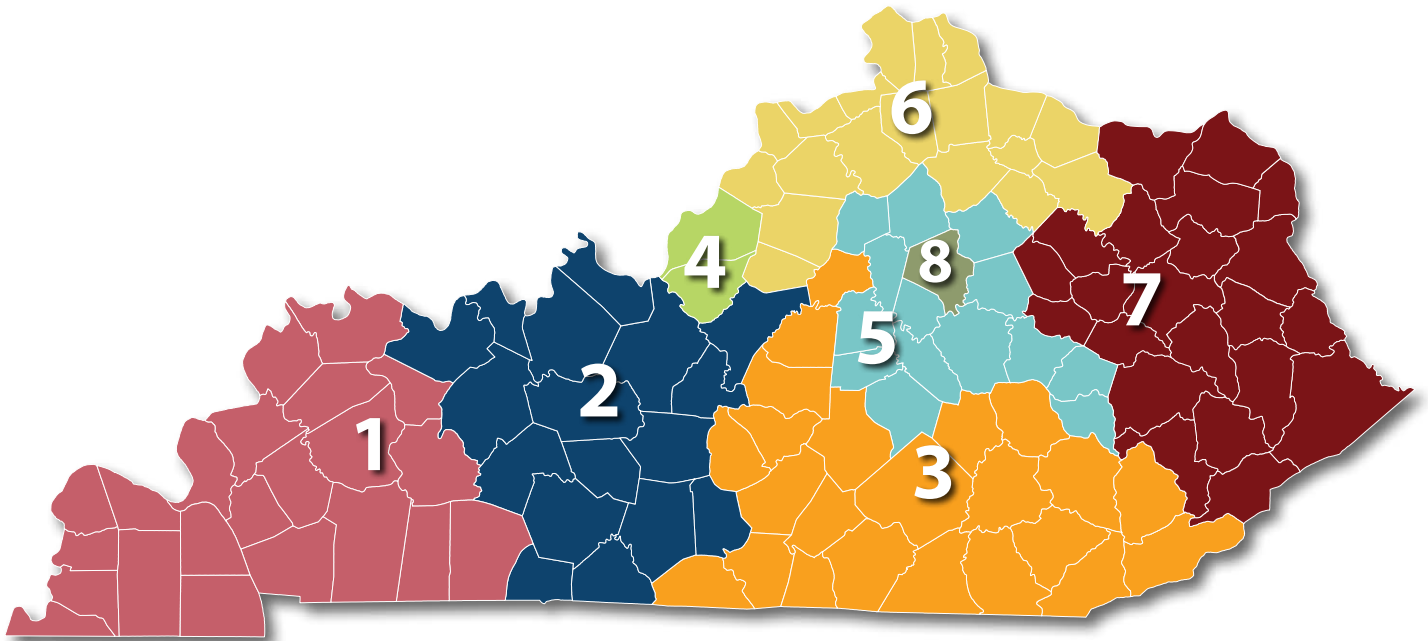
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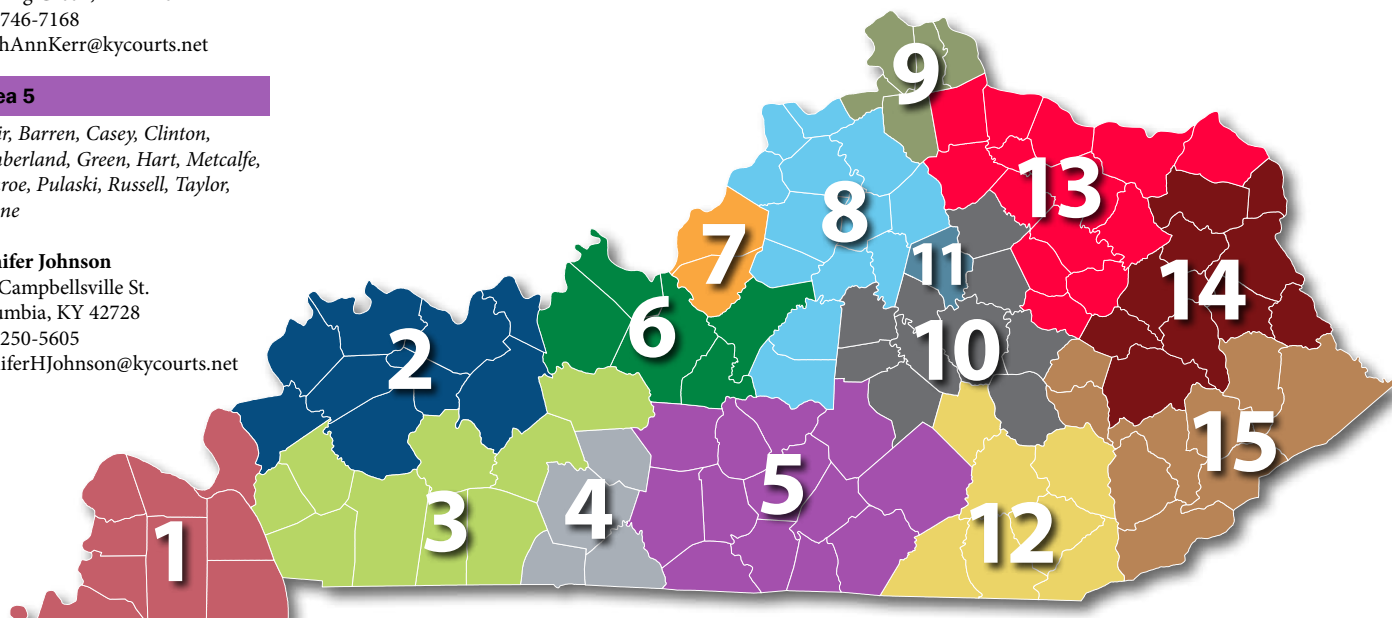
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